STATE OF NEW YORK

9944

IN SENATE

April 16, 2026

Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a public animal cruelty registry

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 352 to read as follows:

§ 352. Public animal cruelty registry. 1. Any person over eighteen years of age who is convicted of animal abuse pursuant to a violation of section three hundred fifty-one or three hundred fifty-three-a of this article, or of the comparable statutes of another state, shall register with the division of criminal justice services. Such registration shall be made in a manner and form to be determined by the division of criminal justice services, and shall include, at a minimum:

(a) the legal name and any other names or aliases that the animal abuser is using or has used;

(b) the date of birth of the animal abuser;

(c) the social security number of the animal abuser;

(d) the current address or location of the animal abuser;

(e) the place of employment of the animal abuser;

(f) the animal protection offense for which the animal abuser was convicted;

(g) the date and place of the animal protection offense conviction of the animal abuser;

(h) a photograph of the animal abuser and a complete set of the animal abuser's fingerprints; and

(i) a description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features on the animal abuser's body that would assist in identifying the animal abuser.

2. Any previously registered animal abuser shall reregister with the division of criminal justice services no later than ten days after moving to a new location within the state.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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3. An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the registration requirements set forth in this section, or provides false information when complying with the registration requirements set forth in this section, shall be guilty of a class E felony.

4. The division of criminal justice services shall maintain registration information received pursuant to this section in a registry. Such registry shall be available in print, electronic form, through internet access, telephone access, and in-person access and shall be available to the public as well as all law enforcement entities, district attorneys, duly incorporated humane societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, dog or cat protective associations, animal control officers, breeders of animals, animal rescues and pet stores doing business in this state. All of the information contained in an animal abuser's registration, with the exception of the animal abuser's social security number, shall be made available.

5. Within ten days of receiving initial registration information from an animal abuser, the division of criminal justice services shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any other business within a half mile radius of the animal abuser's residence or location and provide them with the animal abuser's registration information, with the exception of the animal abuser's social security number.

6. Any person required to register pursuant to this section shall register annually, or each time such person moves to a new address within the state and shall continue to register until such person receives a court order ordering such registration to cease. No such order shall be issued until such person first demonstrates to the court that such person has undergone psychiatric or psychological testing, the results of which indicate by clear and convincing evidence the capable and sound mental capacity and ability to own and properly care for an animal in a humane manner. Any person required to register pursuant to this section shall not own a companion animal or have employment at an animal shelter, pound, pet store, zoo or other business establishment where companion animals are present, until receiving a court order ordering such registration to cease.

7. Any person who is convicted of animal abuse pursuant to a violation of section three hundred fifty-one or three hundred fifty-three-a of this article shall, in addition to any other penalty or term of imprisonment authorized by law, be subject to a mandatory annual surcharge of fifty dollars which shall be used to pay for costs and expenses associated with establishing and maintaining the registry required by this section.

8. The provisions of this section shall apply to all municipalities, including cities having a population of one million or more, and shall supersede any local law, rule, regulation, code or ordinance regulating the establishment, implementation and enforcement of an animal cruelty or abuser registry.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.